

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-27 are pending in the application, Claims 10-26 having been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 8 and 9 are amended, and Claim 27 is newly added by the present amendment. Support for newly added Claim 27 can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.¹ Claims 8 and 9 are amended only to correct matters of form. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Junya (Japanese Patent Application No. 11149724); and Claims 1-7 are indicated as allowable over the cited references. Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 8 and 9 as anticipated by Junya, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as independent Claims 8 and 9 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Amended independent Claim 8 recites a step motor including a lead screw engaged in a pickup chassis and having engaged thereon a feeding member which feeds the pickup chassis radially of a disk-shaped recording medium. The step motor also includes a magnet rotated along with the lead screw, and a magnetic coil which acts on the magnet to rotate the lead screw. Independent Claim 8 further recites that the step motor comprises

a housing which houses the magnet and magnetic coil,
wherein *the housing has an opening formed in each of
the upper and lower sides thereof and between a concavity in
a disk tray having the pickup chassis installed therein and a
bottom plate which supports the bottom of the disk tray.*

¹ e.g., specification, Figs. 23-24.

Independent Claim 9, while directed to an alternative embodiment, recites substantially similar features. Accordingly, the remarks and arguments presented below are applicable to each of independent Claims 8 and 9.

Turning to the applied reference, Junya describes a optical disc device in which assembling properties are improved and a residual tilt after an adjustment of a tangential tile is decreased.²

Junya, however, fails to teach or suggest a step motor including a housing which houses the magnet and magnetic coil of the step motor, and which *has an opening formed in each of the upper and lower sides thereof and between a concavity in a disk tray having the pickup chassis installed therein and a bottom plate which supports the bottom of the disk tray*, as recited in independent Claim 8.

In rejecting the above noted features recited in independent Claim 8, the Office Action cites Figs. 1, 9, 11 and 12 of Junya particularly noting the step motor 6 and optical pickup housing 3 as analogous to the claimed step motor and housing. However, as depicted in the cited figs. The optical pickup housing 3 of Junya houses the pickup device and is separate from any housing that would be used to house the step motor, as claimed. More specifically, the optical pickup housing 3 of Junya does not house the magnet and magnetic coil of the step motor and does not have an opening formed in each of the upper and lower sides thereof *and between a concavity in a disk tray having the pickup chassis installed therein and a bottom plate which supports the bottom of the disk tray*. Instead, the optical pickup housing 3 of Junya is the pickup chassis, and is not a step motor housing having an opening *between a concavity in a disk tray having the pickup chassis installed therein and a bottom plate which supports the bottom of the disk tray*, as recited in independent Claim 8.

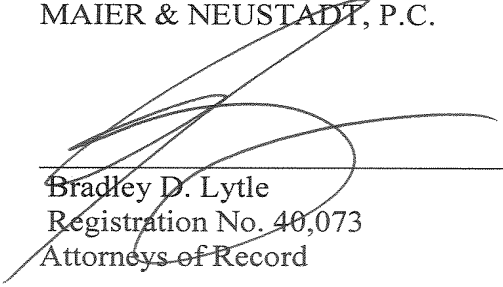
² Junya, Abstract.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn. For substantially similar reasons, it is also submitted that independent Claim 9 patentably defines over Junya.

Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-27 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this rejection is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Bradley D. Lytle
Registration No. 40,073
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

BDL/ATH:mms

I:\ATTY\ATH\PROSECUTION\24's\247952US\247952US - AM
DUE 090607.DOC

Andrew Harry
Registration No. 56,959